the course of these exercises serves as a vital input for upgrading the skills and capabilities of our Armed Forces. It would, however, not be in the national interest to divulge specific details of the exercises planned to be carried out by the Armed Forces of the two countries jointly.

(c) Adequate measures are taken for safeguarding our national interests while planning and executing such exercises.

**Recruitment in Army from Uttaranchal**

†291. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons found eligible for recruitment in army in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of persons recruited from this region has decreased during recent years; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase the number of persons for recruitment in Indian army from this region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI .GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The eligibility of youth for recruitment in the Army is determined on the basis of Recruitable male Population of a State which is 10% of the total male population, irrespective of their caste, class, region, community and domicile, provided they meet laid down criteria of physical, educational and medical standards. As per 2001 census, 4,31,640 youth were considered eligible for recruitment in the Army from Uttaranchal.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Rectification of snags in T-90 Tanks**

292. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army Chief during his recent visit to Russia had taken up the matter of rectification of technical snags found in T-90 Tanks currently in use in India;

†Original notice of the question wee received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Russia has agreed to rectify the same; and

(c) if so, by when Russian military experts/technicals are expected to take up the job?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Russian warranty team of experts is already in the country and is rectifying the technical snags.

**Defence exports**

293. SHRI K.RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are according priority for the export of defence equipments to other countries;

(b) if yes, the details of the defence equipment exported to various other developing and under-developed countries of the world during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned through defence exports during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings have been exporting some of their products for several years after meeting domestic requirments. Products are exported mainly to countries in Asia and Africa and include helicopters, helicopter and aircraft spares, spares of rifles and guns, clothing items, parachutes and accessories, aeronautical stores, communication equipment, night vision devices, bollar pull tug, components and sub-systems etc. India is also capable of exporting offshore patrol vessels, training ships, survey vessels, anti tank guided missibles, launchers, test equipment, simulators etc. Some products have also been exported to countries in Europe and North America.

(c) During the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 the Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings have